



SEPTEMBER IS CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SUPPORT • ADVOCATE • CURE

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Throughout the month, campaigns, fundraisers, research initiatives and other special events shine a spotlight on the leading cause of death among children.

Childhood cancers take many forms, from blood disorders to various types of tumors and rare genetic diseases. Regardless of the condition, supporting cutting-edge research and promising treatments help to prepare a future where families won't face a diagnosis of childhood cancer.

HOW TO OBSERVE

Commit to supporting families impacted by childhood cancer. Raise awareness in your community by organizing a remembrance walk, super survivor celebration, or fundraiser. Visit www.acco.org for more information. Use #ChildhoodCancerAwarenessMonth to share on social media.

HISTORY

October was initially proclaimed as National Awareness Month for Childhood Cancer in 1990 by President George H.W. Bush.

In 2012, President Barack Obama proclaimed September to be National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Here are some ways you can lower your child's risk of getting cancer:

- Educate your child about the harmful effects of smoking and do not expose your child to secondhand smoke. If you are pregnant, refrain from smoking.
- Protect your child against the sun by using a broad spectrum sunscreen and

- encouraging them to stay in the shade if need be.
- Help your child stay active and maintain a healthy weight. Exercise stabilizes levels of hormones like estrogen and insulin that have been linked to cancer.
- Feed your child a healthy diet with lots of fruits, vegetables, and fiber.
- Limit your child's exposure to pesticides, particularly indoor pesticides.

Sincerely,

Del Norte Healthcare District Board of Directors
Kevin Caldwell, M.D.
Michael Young
Elizabeth Austen
Tonya Pearcey, R.N.
Juan Santillan

Sources:

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/calendar-at-a-glance/>

<https://www.acco.org/childhood-cancer-awareness-month/>

<https://www.stjude.org/>

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/cancer.html>

<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-in-children/types-of-childhood-cancers.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dccp/resources/features/cancerandchildren/index.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/pregnancy/features/pregnantdontsmoke.html>

<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/8-easy-ways-to-prevent-childhood-cancer-73948/>

CANCER

claims the lives of more children than all other childhood diseases

COMBINED

Chances of your child getting cancer:

1 in 285

That's

43

children everyday.

And although

83%

is the Average 5-Year Survival Rate of Childhood Cancer

a shocking

1 out of every 5 children diagnosed with childhood cancer will not survive. 1 in every 3 will die young because of the actual cancer treatments they received.

But...

For children who survive childhood cancer, the battle is not yet over. Because of treatments they had as kids, by the time they're 45, more than 95% of survivors will have a chronic health problem and 80% will have severe or life-threatening conditions.

Yet,

All types of childhood cancers combined receive only 4% of U.S. federal funding for cancer research.

4%

In 6 YEARS,

77 new drugs for adult cancers have been developed

But in 77 YEARS,

only 3 new drugs for childhood cancers have been developed

The day before my child was diagnosed,

I wasn't a cancer parent either.